

Lebanese Christians offer to talk to Moslems

BEIRUT (AP). — The largest Christian militia yesterday offered to open direct talks with Moslem opposition groups, "without Syrian tutelage," to avoid a fresh round of sectarian fighting.

The offer by the Lebanese Forces, which is dominated by the right-wing Phalange Party, came one day after Lebanese leaders ended their meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, without agreement on a "unity government" or broad constitutional reforms.

After the conference adjourned, Moslem and Christian forces traded mortar and machinegun fire early yesterday in neighbourhoods along the "green line" that divides the city into rival camps.

Police said four persons were killed and 22 wounded in the fighting, the heaviest in more than a week. Fighting tapered off during the day, though the crackle of automatic-weapons fire could be heard along the dividing line.

Naoum Farah, an official of the Lebanese Forces, blamed Syria for the "failure" of the conference and called on Druse and Shi'ite Moslem groups to join in a new effort toward ending Lebanon's 10-year civil war. "We are willing to establish direct contact without the tutelage of Syria and without the interference of any foreign countries," Farah told reporters in his east Beirut office.

Farah said preliminary contacts had already been made with the Progressive Socialist Party of Druse chieftain Walid Jumblatt and the Shi'ite Amal group, led by lawyer Nabih Berri.

There was no confirmation of any such contacts from the other groups.

Beirut's major newspapers declared the nine-day Lausanne conference a failure and said President Amin Jemayel threatened to resign.

The independent daily *A-Nahar* and the leftist *A-Safir* said the 42-year-old Jemayel made the threat at the closing session in Lausanne. But they said the eight other conferees, including Jumblatt and Berri, joined in asking him to stay on.

If true, the reports would signal a change in the position of Jumblatt, who had called for Jemayel to step down and face trial for ordering the army to fire on Druse and Shi'ite communities. (See story — page 3)

U.S.: PLO contacts were permissible

JERUSALEM POST CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON. — American contacts with the PLO did not violate U.S. promises to Israel in 1975 not to negotiate with the PLO until that organization recognized Israel, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told the House subcommittee on Middle East affairs yesterday.

Murphy said that the contacts during the first years of the Reagan administration were meant to discover whether the PLO might accept UN resolutions 242 and 338, thereby at least tacitly recognizing Israel.

These contacts therefore did not violate the pledge not to hold negotiations, he contended. Referring to the military balance in the Middle East, he said that Israel still had the edge over any combination of Arab armies. Syria had received much new weaponry from the Soviet Union, but the Israel Defence Forces was also better armed.



Suspects in the Jerusalem mosque bombing attempt, Yehuda Limai (left) and Uzi Mahsia Ha'elion, are led to yesterday's remand hearing at Jerusalem Magistrates Court. (Rahamim Israeli)

Reagan abandons sale of missiles to Jordan

WASHINGTON. — President Ronald Reagan, facing defeat in Congress, has decided to drop his plan to sell Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said yesterday.

But another Reagan proposal, for a U.S.-armed and -equipped Jordanian strike force, may get through Congress under a compromise worked out with opponents of the arms purchase.

Congressional and other sources, who declined to be identified, said the White House gained clearance for the strike force by agreeing to eliminate 58 shoulder-fired Stingers that had been earmarked for it.

Speakes said the U.S. had notified "the appropriate parties," meaning Jordan and Saudi Arabia, about Reagan's decision. "Last night, the president decided to withdraw the proposed sale," Speakes said. He said the decision was made "in consultation

with Congress," and Reagan's foreign policy advisers.

Referring to the difficulties the proposed sale faced in Congress, Speakes said: "There was increasing opposition, no doubt about it."

He stressed that only the Stinger sale was being withdrawn, and stated, "we have a Jordanian security package, which is still pending."

He said he did not think the decision would hamper U.S. relations with the conservative Arab states. The Jordanian government said last night it regretted Reagan's decision to withdraw his plan to sell the Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan.

"The Jordanian government, after being informed of the decision, deeply regrets this step which is considered detrimental to the kingdom's defence capability," the official news agency Petra quoted a government spokesman as saying. (AP, Reuters)

\$100 travel tax approved, will go into effect on Sunday

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter
The coalition finally succeeded yesterday in increasing the foreign-travel tax to \$100, effective Sunday. The vote was 49-46. Yitzhak Berman (Likud-Liberals) voted with the opposition against the bill.

Finance Committee chairman Shlomo Lorincz defended a tax of a fixed amount rather than one based on the price of the ticket because the former is easy to collect and cannot be circumvented. Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-

Orgad originally wanted a tax of \$125, but this was opposed by a number of Liberal Knesset Members. A month ago, a bill providing for a \$100 tax was withdrawn by the government after an Alignment amendment was adopted providing for a tax of \$50 plus 5 per cent of the ticket price.

This was followed by reports that the government would circumvent the Knesset and raise the travel tax by means of an administrative order. But the public outcry against such a maneuver led the government to submit a new bill.

Mosquito-fly plague after mild winter

JERUSALEM POST REPORTER
When "the rain is over and the winter is past," it won't be the voice of the turle dove, but the buzz of mosquitoes and flies that will be heard in the land this year.

The Health Ministry's chief entomologist, Rafi Lidror, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the unusually warm winter would allow more insects of this type to hatch earlier than usual.

Lidror said the ministry is advis-

ing local and regional authorities on how to ensure proper extermination measures.

Share index up 5.9%

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Sharp rises in stock prices yesterday added an estimated \$300 million to the total value of the equity market. Over 400 securities advanced by margins of between 5 and 40 per cent, as the General Share Index rose 5.9 per cent.

With trading turnover exceeding the 152 billion mark — more than double Tuesday's level — analysts agreed that the public had returned to the market.

The past three trading sessions have almost covered the losses, estimated at some \$900m., sustained on the market last week. (Story page 7)

Hebrew University researcher charges:

Health Ministry ineffectual on asbestos danger

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

At least several thousand Israeli workers and their families, including children, have been exposed to hazardous amounts of airborne asbestos fibres during the past 30 years.

In a report published last week in *The Israel Journal of Medical Science*, Dr. Elihu Richter of the Hebrew University's Department of Medical Ecology says that asbestos fibre is extremely dangerous when inhaled or swallowed.

Persons working in asbestos-based industries, such as brake-lining factories, shipyards, boiler

Vote hinges on returning MKs; elections likely by year's end

60-60 tie foreseen if Zeigerman stays loyal

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The most important man in the country today might be Liberal enfant terrible Dror Zeigerman — if he manages to reach the Knesset in time for the vote on early elections. The coalition's hopes are now pinned almost entirely on him.

Today may also mark the first public appearance in months of former premier Menachem Begin, who has promised to come for the vote.

Rumours in both coalition and opposition now have it that Zeigerman — en route to Israel with two other Knesset members who had to cut short a visit to Argentina — will vote against the early-elections bills. This could not be confirmed in the Knesset or by any party spokesman, but by last night, early elections no longer seemed as certain as they had since Tami switched its stance on Monday night. The Zeigerman story reached Israel via Argentina. Here, the Likud attempted to keep the entire maneuver a tight secret, even from most of its own MKs. But it all came out when Labour's Uzi Baram, also a member of the delegation to Argentina, spotted Zeigerman packing and learned that he was returning to Israel.

Labour had counted on Zeigerman's voting with the opposition, and would have been satisfied had he just stayed abroad. But his sudden intention to fly back in time for the vote sounded alarm bells in Labour.

Baram sought to dissuade him from returning, but to no avail. This was understood in a hour as an ill omen, indicating that Zeigerman is

once more firmly back in the coalition ranks, perhaps because of Ezer Weizman's announcement that no present Knesset member will be allowed in his new party.

In any case, there is no firm information on how Zeigerman will vote. The Likud is keeping strictly silent, except for Liberal Dan Tichon's comment yesterday that no promises were made to Zeigerman.

Observers speculated that Zeigerman's hesitation about defection may stem in part from his lack of an independent profession. If he votes against the coalition now, he may well be unemployed after the elections. He and fellow Liberal maverick Yitzhak Berman have reportedly been seeking to join with Shinui, but that small party is unlikely to find safe spots for both of them, and Berman, a former energy minister is the more senior of the two.

If Zeigerman indeed votes with the coalition, and if no further political rabbits are pulled out of either the Likud's or Labour's hat, the early-elections bills will be defeated in a tie vote.

The Likud, meanwhile, was discomfited by the Zeigerman report last night, feeling that the disclosure has done it harm. The maneuver would have had a better chance of success, it was said, if sprung on the Knesset as a last-minute surprise.

The Zeigerman angle is reported to be only one line that Likud strategists were clandestinely pursuing all day yesterday to defeat the election bills. Another was to confere with MK Yitzhak Peretz — who was elected to the Knesset on the Likud list but then defected

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Ex-generals dominate Weizman Knesset list

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

Most of the names mentioned so far as likely to appear on former defence minister Ezer Weizman's new party list have a military career behind them. *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Sources close to Weizman said yesterday that, of these, only Avraham Shavit, former chairman of the Manufacturers Association, is neither a reserve nor an active IDF general.

Among the former or present military men are former OC Air Force Mordechai Hod, who has already taken part in one political venture, that of the late Moshe Dayan's Telem party; reserve major-general Avigdor Ben-Gal, now a businessman; and reserve brigadier-general Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, coordinator of activities in the administered territories. Ben-Eliezer had a taste of politics as secretary-general of Tami, which he left in a huff.

Yet another general mentioned by the Weizman sources is Aluf Avraham Amir, a former IDF Planning Branch chief, who is resigning from military service on April 1.

Cohen-Orgad: No 'elections economics'

Post Economic Reporter

In his first public statement since the start of the current early elections turmoil, Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad hinted he will not change course and will not initiate "elections economics."

Speaking at the Israel Economic Association's annual conference, Cohen-Orgad said: "No change in the political situation will cause a change in economic policy, since economic constraints make such steps impossible."



Former defence minister Ezer Weizman in his office yesterday speaking over the telephone with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Weizman said he looked forward to a "fair fight" between his new list and Shamir's Herut party in the coming elections. (IPPA)

Some other prospective candidates are in the civil service.

The new party, it is reported, will seek to appeal to the Arab vote with a dovish platform. The news of Weizman's political move stirred enthusiasm in the East Jerusalem Arab press, which is thought to be

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Peres: Zeigerman promised to vote for early elections

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

MK Dror Zeigerman (Likud-Liberal) promised Labour Party leader Shimon Peres the day before he left for Argentina that if an early-elections bill depended on his vote, he would vote for it.

Peres revealed this pledge from Zeigerman in a television interview last night and added: "I continue to believe that as a young man, a man

of principle, he will honour it."

The Labour chairman also argued that it would not be dignified for the Knesset to "sit around and wait" for the delegation of MKs to return from Argentina for the vote. "Shai we all sit around like golems because someone phoned someone else in the middle of the night and promised him something?" Peres demanded. He said Zeigerman and

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

Mondale front-runner again after beating Hart in Illinois

CHICAGO (Reuters). — Walter Mondale propelled himself back to the front-runner spot in the fight for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination yesterday by beating rival Gary Hart in Illinois, but both men said the race was far from over.

The former vice-president cashed in on support from trade unions and the fractured but still potent Chicago Democratic Party organization. Surveys also indicated voters believed his claim to be more experienced than Hart and better able to handle foreign affairs and repair the domestic economy.

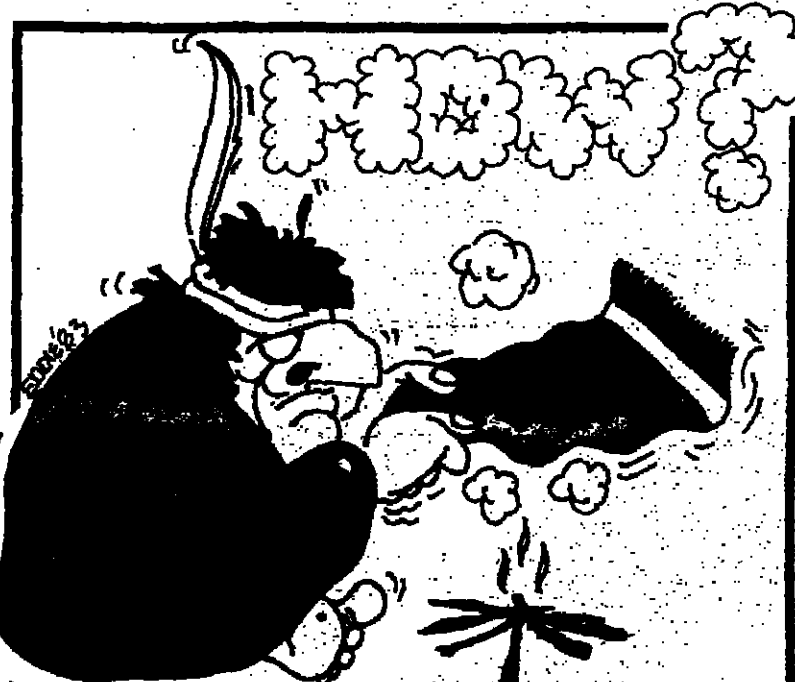
Mondale defeated Hart despite a

strong black vote for Jesse Jackson, who finished third. A quarter of those who voted in Tuesday's Democratic primary were black, and 70 per cent of those cast their vote for Jackson. There had been speculation such a vote would help Hart and hurt Mondale.

More than one million persons voted in the primary, the first in a major Northern industrial state and by far the most sweeping referendum yet this election year. Nearly complete returns showed Mondale got about 41 per cent of the vote, Hart 34 per cent and Jackson 20 per cent.



Protesting turkey farmers, holding turkeys tied to poles, tear down railings on the Knesset fence yesterday. See story page 2. (Rahamim Israeli)



How to make sure you place your classified advertisement in time for tomorrow's *Haluach Hehadash*: Just take your ad to any advertising agency, or to an office of Ma'ariv or Ha'aretz (or call 03-439380) and it will run in Hebrew in those papers. Hand it in early enough to make sure it reaches the office of *Haluach Hehadash* before 4 p.m. and your ad will also appear in English in the *Jerusalem Post*. Beat that deadline!

(Continued on Page 3)

Histadrut: Jobless rate of 9% by December

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — One hundred and twenty thousand workers, or 9 per cent of the country's labour force, will be unemployed by the end of 1984, Gideon Ben-Yisrael, head of the Histadrut Organization department predicted yesterday.

Speaking at a news conference here, he said that young people just entering the labour force about (about 30,000 each year) may not be able to find jobs.

The news conference was called to preview a three-day international seminar on employment, unemployment and labour relations to start on Monday at Tel Aviv University. At the seminar, which is being

organized with the help of the International Labour Organization, international experts and Israeli researchers and practitioners will seek possible solutions to the unemployment problems the country may soon face.

Special emphasis will be placed on populations in particular risk of being unemployed, such as residents of development towns (who Ben-Yisrael said account for 40 per cent of the unemployed though they are only 9 per cent of the population), soldiers recently discharged from the army, new olim and women. The seminar will also discuss the implications of technology and automation for unemployment.

Yosef Hausman of the Manufacturers Association rejected Ben-

Yisrael's prediction or the figure of 100,000 jobless assumed by the state budget. Hausman said he does not have numbers of his own, but he does know that there is a shortage of workers in industry.

Baruch Haklai, director of the Labour Exchange, said there were 15,000 unemployed for six days or more in February, compared to 10,000 in December and 14,500 in January 1983.

He warned that many of those who are unemployed run the risk of becoming "employment handicapped," i.e. unable to hold down a job when they finally get one. "It becomes difficult for them to get up in the morning and to withstand the pressure of eight hours on the job," he said.

Olim mortgages to go up considerably April 1

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

New olim will be eligible to considerably larger government mortgages — covering up to 95 per cent of the cost of an apartment in some areas — starting April 1.

The Absorption Ministry has raised its housing loans by up to 80 per cent since they were last raised at the beginning of this year. The increases, says Amram Tamir, the official in charge of mortgages, not only make up for inflation but also help compensate olim for the drastic reduction in the number of government apartments available to them for long-term rental.

The increases go into effect on April 1, but are also available for olim — here for five years or less — who signed a contract for purchase

or key-money rental of a flat since March 16 and who have not yet received the loan.

A family of olim with two to four persons buying a flat in Jerusalem may now receive a mortgage of IS3.4 million. For a flat elsewhere, a mortgage of IS3m. on condition that the apartment is smaller than 120 square metres. But if that family buys a flat up to 85 square metres, they can get IS4.9m. in Jerusalem and IS4.5m. elsewhere if they came on aliya before 1981. Smaller mortgages are available for those who came later.

Thus, the ministry has introduced a new principle giving bigger loans to those who buy smaller flats and to those eligible who have lacked permanent housing for a longer time.

A family of five buying a flat up to

120 metres may receive IS4.1m. in Jerusalem and IS3.7m. for the rest of the country. If the flat is less than 95 square metres and they moved here since 1983, they are eligible for a loan of IS5m. in Jerusalem and IS4.6m. elsewhere.

In addition, all eligible olim families are entitled to a supplementary government loan of up to IS600,000. The interest has been reduced somewhat to 6.2 per cent linked, and the repayment is extended over 20 years, rather than 10 years as in the past.

An additional loan of IS500,000 will be granted to those who buy apartments in Shekhuna Vav in Beersheba, Kiryat Nardau in Netanya, Ramot Neshet and Pisgat Ze'ev in Jerusalem, and in a number of neighbourhoods in the Dan Region.



Jackie, a chimpanzee who came to Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo 21 years ago from a circus in New York, relaxes in her cage yesterday with her week-old daughter. The baby chimp, which is yet to be named, weighed a healthy 1.5 kilograms at birth. Mother and baby are both doing very well. (Leora Cheshin)

German doctor at seminar

'Holocaust hardest subject of all'

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — "As a German of that (Holocaust) generation, to lecture on the Holocaust in Israel was the most difficult task of my life."

The speaker was 65-year-old Dr. Gunter Ammon of Berlin, president of the World Association of Dynamic Psychiatry and the Academy of Psychoanalysis in the German Federal Republic. He came to Israel to speak at a symposium last night on the psychodynamics of the Holocaust, sponsored by the Rothschild Medical Centre and the Haifa University's Stochitz Institute of Holocaust Studies.

Ammon, who directs clinics in Berlin and Munich, said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* that of all the "incredible horrors" the Germans had inflicted on the Jews, he believed that for the survivors "the most criminal thing was not the physical harm they suffered, but the dehumanization that destroyed the core of their personalities."

The spiritual damage had been so profound that psychotherapy was

incapable of helping "because the damage was so different from any neurosis or psychosis."

Though psychology had "fine explanations" like "dynamics of minorities," "ideology that estranges people from themselves" and "obeying orders and commands," the immensity of the horror "can't be understood." Even visits to the cleaned-up Auschwitz and Dachau death camps "diminish the event."

However, Ammon said, dynamic psychiatry looks to the future, and working with the children of survivors, the second-generation victims, had given him hope for the future.

In Israel, which he has visited five times, "I see a new generation, of beautiful, sporty youngsters, proud of their identity, and ready to defend their country. If they can't understand how their parents allowed themselves to be led to slaughter, the young German generation also finds it hard to understand what their parents did."

He found it imperative to "break the circle of hatred" and look to a creative future that will guarantee

there shall be no more Holocausts.

He did not believe that there was any significant movement among young Germans to "deny" the Holocaust. "But today Germans are well received in the world, even in Poland and Russia who suffered from us in the war, and you can't expect them to bear a guilt complex all their lives and go on their knees to beg your forgiveness."

Nevertheless, Ammon said he was ashamed of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's recent visit to Israel, which he felt "was a mixture of corruption and stupidity."

Ammon, who served in the Wehrmacht's medical corps in the war and "was connected with the resistance," believes that the young generation of Israelis are "ready to fight for the country not because they are militaristic but because they have no choice, and every visiting politician should be driven round the borders (of Israel) to really see the dimensions."

He added that the young Germans who truly believe in peace are a hope for understanding and friendship between the two peoples in future.

Volunteers sought to enforce traffic laws

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Five thousand volunteers are being recruited to help the police enforce the traffic laws and prevent road accidents. At a meeting with transport reporters here yesterday, Civil Guard commander Nitzav Shaul Givoli said some of the volunteers will come from the ranks of the National Council for the Prevention of Accidents, others will be Civil Guard volunteers who previously performed other duties, and many will be newcomers to the Civil Guard who will join for this specific purpose.

Pakad Nili Naor of the police traffic department said the

volunteers will help to make the presence of the law more obvious on city streets and leave professional police personnel free to prevent more serious traffic offences.

She admitted, however, that local police units sometimes regard the volunteers as more of a burden than a help at the outset. "We don't yet know the volunteers and what they can do. If policemen have to be sent to work with them and supervise them in the early stages, some local commanders will grumble that we are taking away manpower needed for other tasks."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the traffic units should contact the nearest Civil Guard base.

ASBESTOS

(Continued from Page One)

exposed on the job, an unknown number of others may have been exposed inadvertently.

Richter says that in the 1960s asbestos was imported to Israel in burlap bags and that these bags found their way to warehouses and granaries where they were used to package potatoes and other food products. Today asbestos is imported in sealed polyethylene bags, which are then buried.

Other sources of asbestos fibre in the home are asbestos flower pots, and in toasters and hair dryers that have asbestos filaments.

Prof. Baruch Modan, director-general of the Health Ministry, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that the recommendations of the committee, which was a joint effort on behalf of the Health and Labour Ministries, are being implemented. There is a permanent committee handling the matter, Modan said.

The chairman of the committee, Prof. Gerald Baum of Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, is now in Los Angeles on a one-year leave.

But the acting chairman, Dr. Ami Rubin of Rambam Hospital in Haifa, said that new regulations concerning workers in asbestos-related industries were published a few weeks ago. The regulations include labelling instructions and health-hazard warnings, Rubin said.

25 convicts tour Knesset in special programme

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Twenty-five convicts, all serving long jail terms for serious crimes, yesterday took part in a one-day seminar in Jerusalem sponsored by the Bamishor spiritual rehabilitation organization.

Bamishor head Rabbi Moshe Shlapobersky obtained special leave for the convicts to take part in the activities that featured discussion groups and lectures, including one given by Jerusalem Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Koltitz.

The prisoners were then given a tour of the Knesset as guests of Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino, chairman of the Interior Committee. The group heard a talk by coalition chairman Avraham Shapira and listened to a debate in the plenum.

Reporters help Eran get phone repaired

BEERSHEBA. — Following the intervention of reporters, the Eran emotional first-aid station here will have its telephone repaired this morning, a week after it stopped working.

The volunteers, noticing on the second day that there were no incoming calls, checked with the telephone company and were told "the matter is being dealt with."

When five days passed and still no repairman came, they turned to the press. The repair service announced yesterday that it will send a technician this morning.

Soldier jailed for passing on grenade

JAFFA (Ilim). — An Israeli Defence Forces private was sentenced to one year in jail and given a one-year suspended sentence by the military court here on Tuesday for giving an IDF hand grenade to a man who later threw it into the yard of the German Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The man, Yitzhak Ganish, is known as an opponent of Israeli relations with Germany. He tossed the grenade into the embassy yard at 8 a.m. on January 30 of this year, during the visit of German Federal

Republic Chancellor Helmut Kohl here. No one was injured by the explosion, but property was damaged.

Testimony during the trial showed that the soldier, who serves with a paratroop unit, was approached by Ganish, his friend and former employer, during one of his leaves. Ganish asked the soldier (whose name was not released) to give him a grenade with which to threaten the German Embassy. Ganish promised that he would return the weapon to the soldier afterwards.

Labour veteran recalls Arlosoroff killing

TEL AVIV (Ilim). — Veteran labour movement leader Berl Repetur told the Arlosoroff murder inquiry commission yesterday that the Mapai leader's wife and a host of other central figures in 1930s political life remained firmly convinced that two Revisionist activists acquitted of the crime were in fact guilty.

Repetur was at the time of the 1933 murder a member of the Haifa Labour Council and later sat on the Provisional Council of State. Yesterday he recalled the tension prevailing 51 years ago between the two main Zionist camps, and the special hostility expressed by the followers of Ze'ev Jabotinsky against Arlosoroff, because he was trying to reach agreement with the Nazis on the emigration of German Jews.

A decade later, the witness said, he lived in the home of Arlosoroff's widow, Sima. On many occasions, he recalled, she expressed her firm conviction that the two men acquitted of the murder, Avraham Stavsky and Zvi Rosenblatt, were in fact guilty. She identified them at their trial, but others have contended that she later expressed doubts as to their responsibility.

Repetur also quoted the late

Hagan intelligence head, Shaul Avigur, as saying before his death that he, too, remained convinced of Stavsky's and Rosenblatt's guilt.

The witness stuck by his version of Avigur's views under questioning by attorney Haim Grossman, representing the Stavsky and Rosenblatt families, about other statements in which Avigur expressed some doubt.

The inquiry commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice David Bechor, was set up last year to attempt to settle once and for all the controversy over Haim Arlosoroff's murder on a Tel Aviv beach. The Revisionist movement and its contemporary political heirs, the Herut Party, contend that Arlosoroff was actually murdered by two Arab criminals and that in his killing was turned into a blood libel against them.

Jewish education meeting tonight at TA University

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A public symposium on Policy Guidelines for Jewish Education will be held this evening at Tel Aviv University, at the concluding session of an international workshop on research and policy-making in Jewish education.

The four-day workshop brought together several dozen scholars from Israel and the Diaspora to discuss how the latest advances in general education research could be applied to Jewish education.

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Several plots are still available at the above sites in the "Build Your Home" framework as published. Other terms, as published in the original prospectuses, are subject to the mandatory changes outlined therein.

The plots will be allotted to the public from 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 25, 1984 on a first come first served basis.

A draw will be held among those present at the time indicated at the beginning of registration.

A IS 30,000 bank cheque, to be considered a down payment on the lease, must be deposited at the time of registration, to the order of the Israel Lands Administration. Registration will be held at the Southern District office of the Israel Lands Administration, Rehov Ben-Zvi (above Yahalom halls).

Additional details are available at the above Administration office.

This notice in effect until May 28, 1984.

Court reveals names of two suspects in mosque attack

The Jerusalem Magistrates Court President, Judge Aharon Simha, yesterday lifted the ban on the publication of the names of two suspects in January's aborted attack on the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aksa mosque.

Ordered held for 15 more days were Yehuda Limai, 31, and Uzi Mahsia Ha'elion, 46. Both lived in the abandoned village of Mei Nef-toah (Lifta) at Jerusalem's western entrance. They were arrested together with other suspects early this month.

The court session was held in camera, but the protocol was subsequently released. Asking for further remand, police detective Rav-Pakad Amram Fahima alleged that on the night of January 26, the pair attempted to plant explosives in the mosque area, but were discovered by a Moslem guard. They then fled the site, but left behind the bombs and other equipment.

Fahima said that continued detention is necessary to help the police find two more suspects who are in hiding, and to discover the source of the explosives. Their release would hinder efforts, he explained, presenting information gathered so far by investigators.

The judge also signed an open-ended arrest order against Shimon Barda, wanted in connection with the attack and with another incident at the Nebi Samwil mosque north of Jerusalem. If found, Barda may be arrested and must be brought before a judge within 48 hours of his apprehension. (Ilim)

Corfu tells pilots' group Israel's air lanes open

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Israel's civil air corridors are open to all aircraft, including those of Israel's neighbouring countries, Transport Minister Haim Corfu said yesterday at the opening of the 39th annual conference of Air Line Pilots Associations (Ialpa) here.

Corfu noted with satisfaction Ialpa's efforts in the fight against terrorism, and said that Israel would support any initiative to strengthen the safety of civil aviation.

Speaking after Corfu, Histadrut Secretary-General Yerocham Meshel also concentrated on the threat posed by terrorism in the skies. There is certainly room for more stringent security measures, he said.

Mentally ill suffer after Acre clinic shut

ACRE (Ilim). — Hundreds of mentally ill persons in Western Galilee are suffering from lack of care and medicine because of the closure of a clinic here, a spokesman for Enosh, the Israel Association for the Mentally Ill, said yesterday.

The clinic was closed three weeks ago after a ceiling collapsed, and engineers say the condition of the building precludes repair. A new building will have to be found if the clinic is to resume operation.

Eilat birdwatching centre nears completion

Jerusalem Post Staff

EILAT. — A bird-watching centre, built jointly by the Eilat Coastal Development Company and the Nature Reserves Authority, is in the final stages of construction here.

A spokeswoman for the centre said that Eilat is the best place in the world to observe migrating birds. She said that the centre will include facilities for lectures, movies and guided tours. She added that since Europe has seven million registered birdwatchers, it is hoped that the centre will increase tourism to Eilat.

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France to move on EC business despite Britain

PARIS. — France intends to call meetings of European Community countries, with or without Britain, during the next few weeks to push through Common Market business by majority vote wherever possible, government spokesman Max Gallo said yesterday.

He told a press conference here after the weekly cabinet meeting that France's tough stance followed Tuesday's failure of the community summit in Brussels to resolve the dispute over British budget repayments.

"There can be no question of giving in to demands that jeopardize the spirit of the European Community itself, and on this point there is a consensus of nine countries out of 10," he said.

"In any case France, as president

of the community, will act to ensure that wherever possible, decisions are taken by a majority."

Within the scope of Common Market regulations, it was possible that France would call meetings of the nine community members excluding Britain or even just of the six original signatories of the Treaty of Rome, he said.

Senior government sources said here yesterday that the French cabinet believed British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had thrown away a major opportunity to reach a compromise with her European partners by rejecting their offer of a one-billion European currency-unit refund on British budget payments from 1984 on. They said this went 80 per cent of

the way towards meeting her demands.

The decision by France and Italy at a European finance ministers' meeting Tuesday night to block the \$630 million refund due to Britain on its 1983 budget payments is likely to further sour relations between Britain and its European partners, diplomatic sources said.

Thatcher has already indicated that the British cabinet will discuss how to respond to the move at its meeting today, and Britain has threatened to withhold some or all of its monthly payments to the community in retaliation.

The British leader had demanded in Brussels that a system be set up to determine future refunds paid to the Common Market to Britain, which is a net contributor to the

market's budget.

"I know it's difficult for everyone but the fact is that (West) Germany and ourselves are the net contributors and France is just coming up to be a net contributor. All the others are substantial net beneficiaries from the community," she said in a British Broadcasting Corporation radio interview broadcast yesterday.

Asked if she was committed to the Common Market, Thatcher replied: "Yes, of course, Britain is committed to Europe and has demonstrated its commitment in its lifetime, very much so. Yes, we are committed to Europe and it is in the interests of our people that we remain committed to Europe. But they too must remain committed to Britain." (Reuter, AP)

Rebels warn Salvadorans: 'Don't vote'

SAN SALVADOR (Reuter). — El Salvador's left-wing guerrillas have stepped up disruption of next Sunday's presidential elections, confiscating thousands of identity cards and formally warning people in insurgent-controlled areas not to vote.

The guerrillas' umbrella organization spelled out its new line on the elections — described by diplomatic analysts as a major shift of position — in a document delivered to the country's main peasant organization.

The undated position paper was signed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), which embraces five guerrilla groups fighting the U.S.-backed government, and its political wing, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR).

The FMLN's Radio Venceremos warned that "drastic measures and reprisals" would be taken against mayors, municipal officials and government representatives who used pressure to make the people vote on March 25.

The Popular Democratic Unity (UPD) peasant organization said, meanwhile, that at least 6,400 people had their identity cards seized at rebel roadblocks since the weekend.

Without identity cards, Salvadorans cannot vote. In El Salvador, voting is compulsory and the cards are stamped when their holders have cast ballots.

Colombia cocaine haul was largest ever, envoy states

WASHINGTON (Reuter). — Colombian police and troops have made the world's biggest seizure of cocaine in an attack on a jungle narcotics factory protected by Communist guerrillas, the U.S. ambassador to Colombia said yesterday.

Lewish Tamba said the haul of 10,000 to 12,500 kilograms of cocaine had a U.S. street value of \$1.2 billion.

"It's the largest raid ever in the world," Tamba told reporters. "Never has anybody got that much cocaine."

He said that following the March 11 raid, in Colombia's Cauca province, 1,100 kilometres from Bogotá, authorities found 10 laboratories, aircraft runways and

seven planes, including one registered in the U.S. Tamba said captured evidence showed a Communist guerrilla group, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias (FAR), provided protection for the cocaine centre in exchange for a percentage of the profits.

The raid was launched by air near the Yari River by 40 national police and a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration observer who filmed the attack.

Forty people were arrested, including an American pilot whom Tamba did not identify.

Tamba said the camp had been in place for two or three years and had been spotted from the air.

Soviet ship hits mine off Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP). — A Soviet tanker delivering oil to Nicaragua hit a mine planted by anti-Sandinista rebels in Puerto Sandino and a number of crew members were injured in the incident Tuesday, a well-placed military source said.

The Soviet ship was seriously damaged, said the source, who spoke only on the condition that his name not be used.

Civilian sources at Puerto Sandino, who spoke by telephone from the port, identified the vessel as the Dukler.

The injured Soviet crew members were taken to a hospital in the city

of Chinandega, 130 kilometres northwest of the capital, the military sources said.

Five seamen were injured, two very seriously, according to the civilian sources, who refused to give their names.

The ship was able to reach the port and dock, the military source said.

Puerto Sandino is 63 kilometres west of Managua, the capital. Rebels fighting to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government have issued statements saying they have mined Nicaragua's ports as a warning to foreign ships to stay clear.

Pope supports Poles in crucifix fight

VATICAN CITY (AP). — Pope John Paul II, in his strongest remarks on Poland since visiting his homeland nine months ago, yesterday expressed his "profound solidarity" for church leaders battling a government ban on crucifixes in schools.

The move by Poland's Communist leaders has sparked student demonstrations and harsh criticism from Polish church officials.

The pope, during his weekly general audience, quoted a statement from Poland's Roman

Catholic Episcopate, which promised that removed crucifixes would be replaced by the Polish people and the new ones defended "against future removal."

"These words touch upon a very painful issue," the pontiff said, speaking out publicly for the first time on what has been dubbed the "war of the crosses."

"I would like to express my profound solidarity with the preoccupation of the Episcopate and of the entire society of believers of our native land," he said in Polish.

Assad swears in new cabinet

DAMASCUS (AP). — President Hafez Assad swore in a new cabinet on Tuesday, vowing to fight "imperialist and Zionist schemes" and calling relations with the Soviet Union "good and strategic."

Assad said that Syria was "firmly attached" to pan-Arab relations and "Arab solidarity" in a speech reported by Sana, the official Syrian news agency.

"We mean the real Arab solidarity based on confronting the imperialist and Zionist schemes," the agency quoted Assad as saying. "Syria will not accept solidarity outside this framework and refuses the

understanding of solidarity that puts it under the American-Israeli umbrella."

Assad said Syria "will keep explaining its points of view to the Arab brothers" and "will continue displaying every possible effort to assist all the Lebanese people in achieving justice."

The 35-man cabinet, Assad swore in was appointed by him on March 11. It includes three vice-presidents — his brother, Rifik, Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam, and Mohammed Zukhrif Masharka, regional undersecretary of Syria's ruling Baath Party.

Sports

Great final tonight

By DON GOULD

TEL AVIV. — Hapoel Ramat Gan, the team that ended Maccabi Tel Aviv's seven year reign in the basketball State Cup competition, will attempt the more difficult task of terminating Maccabi's 14 year hegemony in the league, in the best-of-three playoffs starting tonight. The opening game in the series at 8 o'clock tonight at Yad Eliyahu is expected to attract a sell-out crowd.

Maccabi are all fighting fit and looked very sharp in practice this week. Hapoel's Steve Malovic is still nursing a sore back, but is expected to be able to play. Despite this handicap, the Ramat Ganians are convinced that this is their year. Whichever way the opener goes it should provide one of the best starts to the finals in many a year.

Windies on top

PORT-OF-SPAIN (Reuter). — West Indies, spurred by a century from Jeff Dujon, took control of the second cricket test against Australia at Queen's Park oval here today.

Wicketkeeper Dujon hit his best test score of 130 and Gus Logie made 97 which enabled West Indies to declare at 468 for eight — 213 ahead on first innings.

West Indies pressed home their advantage by capturing five wickets cheaply to reduce Australia to 146 for five in their second innings.

In Lahore, at the close of the third day of the third and final cricket Test here, England in their second innings had scored 65 runs

for the loss of two wickets on Wednesday.

Earlier, Pakistan in their first innings had scored 343 runs, in reply to England's first innings score of 241, thus having a lead of 102 runs.

At one stage Pakistan were 181 for 8, but Sarfaraz Nawaz (90) and Zaheer Abbas (82 not out) added 161 for the ninth wicket in England's second innings. Singh was run out and Fowler caught behind the wicket.

In Colombo, New Zealand shed out a 3-4 lead in the second Test against Sri Lanka. Challenged to make 246 in a half day's play, they elected to bat, taking 10 wickets and playing an exciting game. They were justifiably booed by the crowd. Sri Lanka lost 289 for 9 dec. New Zealand 194 and 210 for 4.

Diplomats at court

By JACK LEON

HERZLIYA. — Forty players from nine embassies are competing in the Dan Accadia Tennis Club's third tournament for diplomats here. U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, who won the first tournament in the series in 1979, is the only survivor from that first meet, but this time back trouble has restricted his participation to the mixed doubles. The 1982 men's champion was Egyptian counsellor Farouk Nasr, who put out Lewis in the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Israeli Gila Bloom and Menashe Tsaur yesterday reached the singles quarter-finals and doubles semi-finals at the 20-nation Singapore International Junior Championships. In third-round singles matches, Bloom beat Indian Manoj Kumar 6-0, 6-2, while Menashe Tsaur came through 6-2, 7-5 against Thai No. 1 Tapon

Konsco, Bloom and Tsaur last week won the doubles crown at the 13th Asian Junior Championships in Singapore.

SPORTOTO TIPS

Single	Double	Triple
1. Shamshon v Mac Haffa	2	21
2. Led v Yama	2	21
3. Netanyahu v Benzi Yehuda	2	21
4. Ben-Zion v Hap. TA	2	21
5. Mac. TA v Hap. TA	2	21
6. Beter TA v Jaffa	2	21
7. Hahash v Mac. PT	2	21
8. Amidor v Yafit	2	21
9. Ramle v Hap. RG	2	21
10. Mryat Shmone v Hahash	2	21
11. Beter Shmone v Hahash	2	21
12. Hahash v Amidor	2	21
13. Beter Haffa v Kfar Saba	2	21

Milan tennis

MILAN (AP). — Kevin Connolly, Stefan Edberg, Mats Wilander and Tomáš Šmíd all won their first-round matches in the Italian Open tennis tournament here today.

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Untapped reserves

IDF Women's Corps commander Col. Amira Dotan advocates that women serve in the army's reserves, both for their own benefit and that of younger women soldiers who are in need of role models. Randi Nell Sax reports.

Photos of IDF women: Israel Talby.

TODAY'S women soldiers suffer from a lack of female role models and a fear of success, according to IDF Women's Corps (Chen) commander, Col. Amira Dotan.

"Young women soldiers want to remain close to home, to work in easy conditions and to return home by 5 p.m. for ballet lessons and so on. They are afraid of concentrating on a career that would conflict with or replace a family and home life," said Dotan, citing a Technion study in which young men were found to want fulfillment and careers, while women seek comfort and security.

Speaking at the First Tuesday meeting for executive women, held recently at the Tel Aviv Sheraton, Dotan, a clinical psychologist and mother of three, said that reserve duty gives young male soldiers the chance to be with older, professional men who serve as role-

models. Women serve in the IDF reserves only until the age of 24.

"A girl of 24 is still a girl," she said. "The lack of women in the reserves adds to the lack of role models because professional and older women are not able to return to the army, bringing with them their experiences and expertise from the outside world. It is important that young soldiers see that a woman can have a career and a home life without having to make an either/or choice."

Dotan strongly advocates women's service in the reserves, and said the go-ahead has been given to begin such a programme. Interested women — whether they have served two years or not, are asked to contact Dotan.

The head of the Women's Corps stressed that she is concentrating her efforts on upgrading, re-

and re-educating people on the role of women in the IDF.

For women, Dotan explained, two-year army service is a "school of life" where women are able to learn skills, meet new people and adjust to new and unfamiliar situations. But many young women complete their mandatory service and leave the army, believing that they will "forsake" their femininity by making a career in the IDF.

In some instances, Dotan added, women also fear they will lose their boyfriends if they stay in the army because they may "out-rank" them.

"The army is not in the job of 'breaking' people," she asserted. "The Women's Corps can make a young woman to feel good about herself and her appearance, and give her the opportunity to learn a profession without compromising her femininity."



WHAT'S IN a name? Why, after 50 years of successful activity, would a women's organization call itself something else?

The switch from "American Mizrahi Women" (AMW) to "Amit" was the result of much deliberation and soul-searching, but it was necessary, according to the organization's new president, veteran educator Frieda Kufeld.

Many members (and non-members) in the U.S. were unable to pronounce the organization's well-established name, and the second word often came out "Mizrahi." In addition, the nearly 2,000 members of AMW who came on aliya and are still active wanted a "more Israeli" name so they could attract non-American immigrants and native Israeli women.

When soliciting contributions, AMW members were sometimes confronted with the query: "Why do you need money? Don't you own the United Mizrahi Bank?"

Perhaps the strongest reason for the name change was the mistaken impression that AMW was part of the fractious and sinking National Religious Party.

"When some of the NRP's political activities became unpleasant," says Kufeld, "we felt that we should change our name so we would not be mistakenly labelled as political."

AMW was founded when Hapoel Mizrahi — which also included a men's division — split. Emunah, the National Religious Women's Organization attached to the Mizrahi movement abroad and the NRP in Israel, has always been a separate organization.

"We are strictly non-political," says Kufeld, "and our 80,000 members in 40 states in the U.S. devote themselves to our fourteen institutions in Israel."

Spread throughout the country, these institutions provide vocational and technical training for young people, especially girls. The new children's home in Jerusalem's Gilo quarter is the "last word" in foster care for youngsters from disadvantaged families.

The name "Amit" was suggested because it has an "Israeli ring" to it. (The word literally means "friend, neighbour, colleague, associate.") The acronym stands for "Americans for Israel and Torah" in English, and *Irgun Mitnadivim le'Yisrael u'Tora* in Hebrew. The name has been legally accepted in the U.S., but technical difficulties — the existence of a small group with the same name but different spelling (which provides meals for the elderly) — has delayed the name change here.

"It will be recognized soon," says the president of Amit. "We're just eager to prevent problems."

All meetings of the organization are held according to strict *kashrut* and Sabbath regulations, but Amit's membership is not confined to Orthodox Jews alone. There is a Reform chapter in Rochester, New York, and a Conservative chapter in San Francisco. The organization's hope is that Jewish women who participate in Amit's activities will become closer to tradition and observance as a result. Emunah — which regards itself as more religious than Amit, and more of whose members cover their hair as married women are required by Halacha — strictly limits itself to the Orthodox.

Although there has been some rivalry between Amit and Emunah, Kufeld says that she and the national president of Emunah, Charlotte Dachs, are neighbours — and friends — in Great Neck, New York. And both organizations sit



Frieda C. Kufeld

Name change

For reasons of pronunciation and politics, the 50-year-old American Mizrahi Women organization is now being called 'Amit', writes July Siegel-Itzkovich.

together in roof bodies like the Presidents' Conference.

Most of Amit's \$5 million annual budget is devoted to its Israeli institutions. Funds are raised by the usual American Jewish methods — dinners, flower sales, benefit concerts and plays, bazaars, cake sales.

"If you can think of a new idea to raise funds, tell me," says Kufeld with a smile. She adds that the younger generation of American Jewish women, although many more of them work outside the home and are professional career women, like to go to fund-raising dinners in honour of their friends.

The flight of young American Jewish women to the professions has led to a change in organizational activities and members. Amit established chapters of women attorneys and accountants, which meet only five or six times a year in the New York City area. Hence, the rigid schedule of meetings has been abandoned, but the chapters still get work and fund-raising done, says Kufeld.

Unlike many presidents of volunteer organizations, Kufeld became Amit's unpaid head after 30 years as an educator and school ad-

ministrator. At the same time, she was a life time member of AMW's Shalhevet Chapter in Great Neck. Shortly after going on pension in 1977, Kufeld was approached by members of AMW who asked her to take on the presidency.

"I was very happy in my professional work, but Amit has given me much personal fulfillment that I had never experienced before. The level of the women I work with is very high. I see no pettiness or jealousy, and the volunteers are very dedicated. There can be disagreements, but never anger. And the five or six former presidents of the organization participate fully." Her husband, an attorney, is very supportive of her activities in Amit.

Kufeld doesn't seem to regard herself as a "feminist," despite her long professional career. Religious women, she says, have so far not been "allowed" to reach high positions in Jewish educational institutions in the U.S.

"I suppose it's our own fault: We women have never demanded top positions in the field," she says. "And we certainly have the talent and could provide role models to Jewish girls in the schools."

In Israel, Amit leaders, despite their Diaspora base and their volunteer status, are nevertheless respected by Israeli education officials. They are regularly consulted, and often asked to take on projects that the government cannot do — or afford to do — itself.

When originally approached by the authorities about establishing the Gilo children's home, Amit was promised that the government would pay for half of the \$4.5 m. cost. But in the middle of construction, the organization was told that the government couldn't meet its obligations. The women went about raising more money, and managed to complete the building. The facility — in which 200 children, aged 3 to 14, are cared for in a family-like framework — is a recognized success.

Other Amit projects are the Kfar Batya youth village in Ra'anana, Beit Ze'ev Mizrahi schools in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beersheba, a number of community centres, the religious high school in Kiryat Ata, the comprehensive school in Rehovot, and the technological religious high school in the Dan region.

Kufeld says that Amit is very Israel-oriented, and that aliya is promoted among its members through aliya chairwomen in each chapter and the provision of written material.

Well aware of the growing influence and numbers of the ultra-Orthodox both in the U.S. and in Israel, Kufeld admits that the national religious segment of the traditional community does feel somewhat outnumbered.

One of the most painful things, she says, is to watch extremist ultra-Orthodox groups demonstrate against Israel outside the UN or the Israeli embassy, and to see vicious placards pasted in the subways. But Kufeld is not pessimistic. "We have many strengths, she says. "More of our young people are involved in Zionist activities and more visit Israel than ever before."

Today is edited by Joanna Yehiel

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SIMPLE DAYS

by Shelley Elkayam

Poet Shelley Elkayam is the founder of the cultural movement "The East for Peace." Her poems, which are widely read in Hebrew, have been translated into English by Charles McGeehan and Sorel Thompson, and have been published by Bantam Publications in Amsterdam, on the occasion of the international poetry festival "One World Poetry — The Eve of 84."

You are invited to hear Shelley Elkayam read her poetry, together with fellow poets, Simon Lichman and Betsy Rosenberg, at a literary evening directed by critic Miri Kene Paz, to be held at the Jerusalem Tzavta today, Thursday, March 22 at 9 p.m. Entrance: 15 150.

Simple Days will be available at the poetry reading, and directly from The Jerusalem Post Book Department, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000. 28 pages, softcover, 15450 (including VAT).

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Exports of Koortrade to grow 32.5%, to \$287.3m., this year

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Koortrade plans to increase its exports by 32.5 per cent (to \$287.3 million) this year, according to its annual work plan recently approved.

Exports are to be increased to all five continents, according to Yosef Bernthal, the firm's general manager. Although the biggest part of the exports go to North America, a total of \$114.5m. this year, the increase there will be only 18 per cent. Exports to Europe are expected to increase by 21 per cent, to \$55 million.

Increases to other areas are expected to be as follows: Asia, 46 per cent; Africa, 39 per cent and Latin America, 17.5 per cent.

However, the total turnover of Koortrade in 1984 will be \$719m., only some 36 per cent more than in 1983.

Koortrade not only exports, but it also imports and conducts transactions within Israel. This activity is expected to grow by 39 per cent, while the concern's foreign operations (trading between countries without any connection to Israel) is expected to grow by 61 per cent.

New export marketing approaches include establishing sales warehouses, such as for intermediate plastics in England and tires in France; joint marketing ventures, such as Raphael valves in West Germany and in the U.S., and Telrad telecommunication products in the UK. An international trading office will be opened in London. A marketing unit will be put up jointly with a number of kibbutz industries to sell agricultural machinery in the U.S. This unit will combine with a company "in a major marketplace to develop agro-industrial projects in third countries."



The Public Works Department is using sophisticated equipment of the Hamasli company to put up a new type of road divider. The crew above is working at the Sha'ar Hagai section of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. The concrete safety dividers will later be installed at other dangerous road sections.

Adjustments in central gas billing

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Changes in the new billing procedures for users of central gas systems, some of which will benefit the consumer, will be announced soon, an Energy Ministry source said yesterday.

Officials of the ministry and of the gas companies, and representatives of the consumer organizations have been preparing revisions in the billing procedures for several weeks.

The new system, introduced with last month's gas bills, required consumers to pay much bigger advances on current consumption, to be credited to the consumer's account at the next billing.

One of the provisions to be changed concerns the time period

for crediting advances to later bills in cases where the advance turns out to be larger than the sum due on the next bill. Many consumers who use gas to heat their homes could find themselves in this situation, since the amounts of gas they use in the spring and summer would be smaller than those used in winter.

As the procedures stand now, the gas companies are permitted to spread large advances paid over three billing periods, or six months, when deducting them from future bills. This considerably eroded the value of the original advance.

The changes now proposed would link the value of the advances to the index or to a certain quantity of gas, thus preserving the real value of the advance.

Zim and El-Yam sign 7-year potash contract

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA. — A seven-year contract for the annual transport of 400,000 tons of potash to the U.S. West Coast and to European ports was signed by the Dead Sea Works with the Zim and El-Yam shipping companies yesterday.

The contract, valued at some \$5 million a year, will be shared by the two companies.

The potash is to be carried by the companies' new 60,000 ton grain carriers. On their homeward journeys they will bring grain.

Zim has also contracted to handle other potash consignments in its smaller vessels to accommodate small orders and shipments to ports that cannot handle the bigger ships.

Discount's flexible pakam

TEL AVIV. — Bank Discount may introduce a flexible pakam (short-term deposit) account with an open maturity date.

Under this arrangement a customer will be able to deposit money in a pakam account, and when he needs it he can inform the bank, which will transfer it to this checking account.

At present, Discount has pakam accounts running from seven to 60 days, but the customer must choose the maturity date when he opens the account.

TIUS. — Ben-Zion Bezalet has been appointed general manager of the TIUS concern, an affiliate of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim. He replaces Arie Mazon, who is retiring. Zvi Agnon has been appointed deputy-general manager.

Electric Corp. uses laboratory van to trace faults in power lines

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — A \$100,000 mobile laboratory that can locate faults in underground power lines was unveiled yesterday by the Electric Corporation.

The machine, which can also diagnose the state of cables up to several kilometres long, is being used by maintenance and repair crews in Haifa and the north.

Shaul Hoch, head of the corporation's northern district, said the new equipment cut the time taken to trace faults by more than half, and sometimes to a few minutes. This, in turn, helped speed up repair work and minimized the duration of power cuts.

The instrument, which is housed in a van, sends electrical impulses along the power lines. The data is then fed back into the on-board

computer, which shows the technicians the precise location of a breakdown.

Hoch said the device remedied one of the main disadvantages of underground lines by enabling engineers to trace faults within a few minutes, instead of having to dig around to look for the breaks.

The machine was built by the West German firm Siemens to the design of Electric Corporation engineers, so that it can also be used to trace faults in high voltage cables, both underground and overhead.

Hoch said breakdowns in the overhead high voltage lines usually occurred in winter and could previously only be traced by sending out repair crews to check each length of line visually. This could involve stretches of cable up to five kilometres long, and the job was very time-consuming.

Aldor data processing had good first year

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Aldor company, which concentrates on the marketing of automatic data processing projects for civilian use and for the security forces, expects sales to reach \$30 million in its first year of activities, it was announced yesterday.

The company was founded on October 1, 1983 by Nikom, a subsidiary of Bank Hapoalim Investments and Elbit. Shlomo Harar, former marketing manager of Elbit, has been appointed general manager of the new company.

Aldor sells data processing projects made by Elbit as well as those

of several foreign companies, such as Nixdorf, Tandem and Paradyne. The company has a staff of 130. Reuben Shmer, former general manager of Nikom, has left the company which he headed since 1977. During this period, the firm made impressive progress.

Sauter stoves win awards

TEL AVIV. — Minister Sara Doron this week presented the "Best Product" award to Dr. Sergio Mancini, head of the exhaust division of Sauter Stoves, of France. The competition was conducted by the Haifa Technion, which also awarded a "Best Product" award for the stoves themselves.

Profits of Clal Electronic Industries up 27%

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Clal Electronic Industries reports that in fiscal 1983 it earned \$1.4 billion, compared with \$1.07 billion a year earlier. The growth in earnings reflects a nominal gain of 270 per cent and a real gain of 27 per cent after adjusting for inflation.

Clal Electronics is a subsidiary of Clal Industries, which centralizes the group's investments in electronics. Its main holdings include: Electronics Corp. of Israel, 67 per cent; Scitex, 19; Beta Development, 61; Robomatrix, 37; International Technologies (Lasers), 33; Omicron Scientific, 9; and Hennen Medical, 44 per cent.

The profits for 1983, after adjust-

ment for inflation, were just over \$1 billion. This compares with \$1.07 billion the year before. Net earnings per share, adjusted for inflation, stood at \$2.49, compared with \$1.53.

The company's profits, after excluding capital gains from public financing issues, as in the case of Scitex and ECI, showed a real growth of 78 per cent.

Sales of the group, including those of companies not consolidated in the report, came to \$4.64 billion, compared with \$2.1 billion a year earlier. Exports totalled \$2.2 billion, compared with \$1.2 billion in 1982. Scitex and ECI were primarily responsible for the 33 per cent growth in exports, on a year to year basis.

Research and development expenditures came to \$14.3m., com-

pared with \$9.9m. a year before. Fixed assets investment totalled \$13.1m., compared with \$9.2m. in 1982, reflected an advance of 42 per cent.

In June 1983 Scitex raised \$41.5m. from its public financing issue on the Over-the-Counter Market in the U.S.

Clal Electronic Industries became a public company in December 1981, when it floated 12.5 per cent of its paid-up share capital. At that time it undertook to float another 12.5 per cent issue, but management says that it did not do so in 1983 due to the conditions then prevailing on Israel's capital market.

The company's balance sheet total stood at \$1.98b. compared with \$1.58b. in 1982.

Greek merchant marine declines in 1983

ATHENS (AP). — Greece's merchant marine fleet numbered 3,263 vessels at the end of 1983, compared to 3,554 ships the previous year, according to official statistics published yesterday.

The statistics showed that 253 vessels joined the fleet, while 544 ships were struck off the register in 1983.

The number of Greek-owned vessels flying foreign flags fell from 440 vessels in 1982 to 406 ships last year.

The Greek fleet breaks down as follows: Cargo, 2,191 vessels; representing 62.9 per cent of total tonnage, tankers, 446 ships, or 35 per cent of the fleet's tonnage; passenger liners, 347 vessels, or 1.9 per cent of tonnage.

Japanese farmers ask for help against U.S.

TEL AVIV (Jtm). — The Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan has sent a telegram to the Histadrut's Agricultural Centre, appealing for assistance against American pressure to open Japanese markets to U.S. agricultural products. The union represents eight million members.

The telegram says that Japanese farmers are already in difficulties, having to produce from small areas of land, much of it on mountain slopes. The union maintains that is American produce is allowed to flood the Japanese market, it will spell the death blow for Japanese agriculture.

WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at \$1520 per line including VAT, insertion every day of the month costs \$10,205 including VAT, per month. Copy accepted at offices of The Jerusalem Post and all recognized advertising agencies.

Jerusalem Museums

Israel Museum. Exhibitions: Rymon Marcus, "Happy Moments (Opera)", industrial posters on wood. Master Drawings from Uffizi Gallery. Small Scale Modern Sculpture from Museum. Joseph Zaritsky, oil paintings and aquatints. David Schreuer, posters and advertisements. Heurion, 45 Years of Design. Art Looks at Art: Of Reisman, Paintings: Scrupa, home theatre sets and greeting cards. Tom Seidmann Freud: Permanent Collection of Jewish Art and Archaeology and Contemporary Israeli Art. Rockefeller Museum: Kadesh Barnea, Judean Kingdom fortress: How to Study the Past (for children). Paley Centre, next to Rockefeller Museum. Closed Saturdays.

Visiting Hours: Main Museum galleries closed. 8.30 (Israel Museum). Lecture by Alfred Preussmann on exhibition policy of Museum for Modern Art at the Georges Pompidou Centre (in English, free).

CONDUCTED TOURS

HADASSAH. Guided tour of all installations. A Hourly tour at Kiryat Hadassah and Hadassah Mt. Scopus. A Information, reservations: 02-66333, 02-444271.

Hebrew University:

1. Tours in English at 9 and 11 a.m. from Administration Building, Givat Ram Campus. Buses 9 and 28.

2. Modern Scopus tours 11 a.m. from the Brinman Reception Centre, Sherman Building, Bura and 28 to last stop. Further details: 02-682819.

American Mizrahi Museum. Free Morning Tours — 8 Alkalai Street, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-699222.

Tel Aviv

MUSEUMS

Tel Aviv Museum. Exhibitions: Cosmic Images in the 20th Century. Michael Kirshner, photographs. Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: Twentieth Century Art. Exhibitions: Sun-Thur, 10-10. Fri. closed. Sat. 10-2. 7-10. Helena Rubinstein Pavilion: New Exhibition A Pear and an Apple. Exhibition on Still-Life. Visiting Hours: Sun-Thur, 9-1. Sat. 10-2. Fri. closed.

CONDUCTED TOURS

American Mizrahi Museum. Free Morning Tours — Tel Aviv. Tel. 220187, 243106.

WIZO: To visit our projects call Tel Aviv, 232939; Jerusalem, 226060; Haifa, 69537.

PIONEER WOMEN — NA'AMAT. Morning tours. Call for reservations: Tel Aviv, 256006.

Haifa

What's On in Haifa. Tel 04-640400.

Yesterday's Solutions

1. A. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

QUICK SOLUTION

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Bulls go on wild stampede

TEL AVIV — The "bulls" wreaked havoc in the bulls of the exchange. A Rehov Ahad Ha'am yesterday. Not even oldtimers could recall a session to match yesterday's upside volatility. "It looked as if everyone wanted to get into the act regardless of price," said one portfolio manager.

It seems that much of the demand came from the mutual funds, which have been on the receiving end of substantial sums of money — that needs to be invested quickly. Early in the day it was already clear from the results of trading in options that a major upside move would take place. The options soared, sometimes by as much as 40 per cent. "This part of the market has become unhinged," said a securities adviser at one Tel Aviv bank.

The session saw 97 securities advance by five per cent as a result of being listed as "buyers only," while no fewer than 31 others zipped ahead by 10 per cent or more. There was little talk of impending

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENTHAU

profit-taking yesterday. Yet, whether such a move starts today or early next week, it is inevitable that it comes. Most observers agree that when it takes place, it could be severe and in direct proportion to the gains recorded this week.

One cannot help but recall the advice which says that "Bulls make money, bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered." While it was difficult to find anyone sounding calls for caution yesterday, it would certainly behoove investors to adopt a more cautious stance.

In the meantime 15 issues were "buyers only" for the second session. They will trade today without any price restrictions and investors have been warned to place orders

for these securities only with a "price limit." In summary, the market advanced by 7.78 per cent, bank shares excepted. Oil issues led the way with an 11.26 per cent rise. They were followed by investment company equities, which rose by 9.48 per cent.

Investors were pitching for industrial issues and these responded with good-sized gains. Elite was up 14.4 per cent, Vitalgo 1 did even better with a 22 per cent advance. Maquette 0.1 put in a superb upward burst, which saw the share advance by 36.9 per cent.

The single best performance of the session was achieved by the Arad option, whose price advanced by 50 per cent. Technology issues continued to move higher. Aris gained 9.4 per cent, while Elbit and Elron were held to gains of up to 3.7 per cent. Clal Electronic Industries, in the aftermath of an excellent profit and loss statement (see story on page 6), was established as "buyers only." Among aviation issues Cyclone 3 was up 15.1 per cent. T.A.T. gained 12.6 per cent. Tromasbestos gained 22.7 per cent.

The premier Dead Sea Works shares were 12.2 per cent higher, but they still have not recovered from last week's losses. Taro came through with an 18.3 per cent rise. Clal Industries, which controls Clal Electronics, was a 15.1 per cent gainer.

Investment company shares were sharply higher. Israel Corporation 1 was 15 per cent to the good, while the 5 shares were "buyers only." Leumi Investments gained 15 per cent, but Ampa was even more impressive as it collected a gain of 37.7 per cent. Landeco 0.1 was not far behind as it roared ahead by 31.6 per cent.

Oil issues picked up gains of up to 10 per cent, while the options advanced by as much as 25 per cent.

Leumi lowers fees on 'currency basket'

By MACABEE DEAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — Bank Leumi yesterday announced considerable reductions for customers who buy into its "foreign currency baskets." The bank notes lately the U.S. dollar has often in value compared to European and Japanese currencies, and that it would be wise to move into other currencies, specifically into "foreign currency baskets," where

Currency	Leumi S.Basket	Leumi Euro-basket	Leumi S.D.R. basket	Leumi S-German mark basket
U.S. dollar	2.5	67.8	U 26.3	W 50.8
Pound sterling	—	—	0.5	19.1
German mark	1.0	18.4	3.0	30.2
French franc	—	—	—	0.74
Dutch florin	1.0	9.2	—	—
Swiss franc	1.0	12.6	2.0	24.4
Japanese yen	—	—	—	34.0

Dollar advances as gold is down

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar advanced on European currency markets early yesterday in erratic trading. Gold bullion prices drifted lower.

Currency traders said the dollar was being bolstered by the failure of the Common Market summit in Brussels to reach agreement on Britain's demand for a budget rebate. Investors were moving out of currencies within the Common Market and into the dollar, traders said. They described dealings as nervous and hectic.

In addition, the dollar was helped by an overnight rise of about 1/4 point in Eurodollar deposit rates, the interest paid on dollars held in

European banks. The dollar began the day on a weaker note in Tokyo, easing to 226.30 Japanese yen from Monday's 227 yen. Japanese markets were closed Tuesday for a national holiday.

Later in Europe, the dollar was quoted higher against all major currencies, except the Canadian dollar. The dollar's strength pushed gold prices lower, but dealers said no significant trends were apparent. London's five major bullion houses fixed a recommended mid-morning price of \$392, down 75 cents from late Tuesday. Silver was bid at \$9.54 an ounce, down from \$9.585.

Sudan must reschedule \$400m. debt

VIENNA (Reuters) — Sudan will be asked to reschedule \$400 million of debt overdue from last year, Sudanese Finance Minister Ibrahim Mansour said recently.

Sudan had a 1983 current account deficit estimated at more than \$1 billion, he said, of which at least \$500m. had been met after support pledged by about 20 countries and organizations at a recent meeting chaired by the World Bank.

Sudan, which has a total foreign debt burden of around \$8b., suffers

from serious balance of payments difficulties. Exports in 1983 brought in about \$600m., while imports exceeded \$1b., of which half went on petroleum products, Mansour said.

Sudan was exploring for oil to ease this import burden. "We think that by the end of 1986 we will be exporting oil at about 80,000 barrels per day," he said.

He also forecast an improved crop for cotton, Sudan's main export, of about 1.2 million bales this year.

Egypt plans to build 3 new oil refineries

Egypt plans to build three oil refineries with a total capacity of 180,000 barrels of oil per day to meet growing domestic demand, sources at Egypt's General Petroleum Corp. said.

The refineries, expected to cost more than \$2 billion, would be located at Suez, where most of the country's oil is produced, Asyut in Upper Egypt and Abu Rudeis in the Sinai Desert, they said.

They did not say when construction would start.

Egypt's oil output is expected to reach one million BPD by 1985, according to energy officials. At present there are six refineries, with a capacity of about 300,000 barrels of oil daily.

U.S. BANK RATES

NEW YORK (AP) — Money rates for Tuesday, March 20, 1984, as reported by Telerate Systems.

Prime rate: 11.5
Discount rate: 8.5
Dealers commercial paper: 30-180 days: 9.90-10.00
Certificates of deposit \$100,000: 30-59 days: 9.42
60-89 days: 9.54
Treasury bill rates: 3-month as of Mar. 19: 9.65
6-month as of Mar. 19: 9.79

AID. — The UN has given just over \$3,000,000 to assist more than 270,000 Indo-Chinese refugees who have fled to China since 1978, a spokesman for the UN Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said yesterday in Peking.

Commercial Banks

Bank	Price	Change
Bank of Israel	120.00	+1.00
Bank Leumi	115.00	+1.00
Bank Hapoalim	110.00	+1.00
Bank Mizrahi	105.00	+1.00
Bank Hapoalim	100.00	+1.00
Bank Mizrahi	95.00	+1.00
Bank Hapoalim	90.00	+1.00
Bank Mizrahi	85.00	+1.00
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Bank Hapoalim	90.00	+1.00
Bank Mizrahi	85.00	+1.00
Bank Hapoalim	80.00	+1.00
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Commercial Banks

Bank	Price	Change
Bank of Israel	120.00	+1.00
Bank Leumi	115.00	+1.00
Bank Hapoalim	110.00	+1.00
Bank Mizrahi	105.00	+1.00
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Hotels, Tourism

Hotel	Price	Change
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Art Roth
Editor and
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Erwin Frenkel
Editor

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Adar-II 18, 5744 • Jamadi Thani 18, 1404

Election economy again?

UNTIL very recently, whenever the subject of early elections was broached, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was opposed on the grounds that throwing the country into an election campaign would thwart all the government's efforts to rescue the economy.

Barely had the volte-face of Tami made it clear that early elections were inevitable, and suddenly the only question that remained for the premier was to drag out the campaign for as long as possible — no matter what the cost to the economy. The only factor that might override Mr. Shamir's interest in the latest possible election date is the threat of an internal leadership contest in Herut. That would then take priority over any considerations of the welfare of the economy.

The truth, of course, is that Mr. Shamir's earlier economic argument against early elections and his present plea to play for time, ostensibly in order to give his finance minister's policies a chance to take hold, have no economic meaning.

If the argument against early elections was wrong, that of postponing them is even wronger. It rests on the hope that the economic cures devised by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad will produce results which, if polling day is only held late enough, may sway the voter to return the Likud to power.

But there is nothing in the finance minister's prescriptions for the economy that can possibly show results within four, six, or even eight months. Moreover, the main targets of his policy so far are not of the kind that are of much concern to the voter. For the man in the street, the state of the balance of payments is an abstract concept. Inflation at a monthly rate of two digits is a daily reality — and that will not change, no matter what the finance minister does between now and polling day.

But Mr. Cohen-Orgad would have to be super human to persevere in the course he has set, during an election campaign. To hold real wages at the level to which they have been eroded by his policies would have been an unprecedented feat even if no elections were in the offing. Before elections, there is no chance for that.

The same is true for every other area of economic policy. Raising fees for government services, cutting subsidies, denying credits to private and public enterprises, devaluing the currency at the rate dictated by domestic inflation — you name it, and it will become more difficult, if not impossible. And then there are the potential future coalition partners that will have to be wooed even more ardently.

Election time means election economics. There is no way out of that, even if this time around the election economics will not be as crude as when Yoram Aridor set out to rescue not the economy, but his own party from defeat.

The public will not be inundated with video sets, automobiles, and other goodies this time. But it will be a good year for profits, for subsidies, for favourable wage contracts, for those owing taxes and for many other benefits as well.

Clearly, the longer the election campaign, that has already started, lasts the higher will be the cost to the economy. Therefore, if Mr. Shamir and his finance minister really have the nation's economy as a priority, they should be interested in setting the earliest possible election date. Evidently, despite the patriotic rhetoric, the priority lies elsewhere.

Weizman crashes the party

EVEN if Mr. Shamir and his coalition partners succeed in obstructing the moves for elections this spring, two genies have already jumped out of their boxes.

The first is the fact of an early poll. For Mr. Shamir, whatever his personal preference, will now have to agree to elections sometime this year. The second genie is Ezer Weizman now flushed out from hiding.

The former defence minister, who stormed out of Mr. Begin's cabinet, will certainly add flavour to the campaign. His caustic denunciations of the government's failures have already made him a centre of attention. And his list will apparently be studded with personalities who made their names elsewhere, mostly the air force, and who now aim to fly to power. But the flak will be heavy.

Already yesterday Mr. Weizman was roundly criticized from many sides. Silent all these months about the Lebanese war, suddenly when elections beckon, he deigns to speak out, said the critics and with justice.

But Mr. Weizman's real challenge, once his list is displayed, will be to persuade voters that his party is more than a short-lived meteor. That will not be easy. Yet it is bound to attract voters, who in the past might have voted for the Liberals or another centre party, but today have no electoral address. For the moribund Liberals are submerged in the Likud while the other centrist splinters lack appeal.

Perhaps most important is that Mr. Weizman, not known for his guarded tongue, will be a catalyst for sharpening the issues in the campaign. His critique this week of the government's failures in Lebanon, failures in the peace process, and failures on the economic front, has already rippled through the parties. He is opening the throttles for he has nothing to lose.

If that pierces the government's cant and Labour's caution, he will make a major contribution to the campaign irrespective of the votes he garners.

Danger of dependence

By GAD YA'ACOBI

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the Israeli economic mission, headed by Minister of Finance Yigal Cohen-Orgad, recently returned from Washington, they announced: "We received good marks; we were told that our policy is a good start, a first step in the right direction."

I cannot remember a similar event in the history of Israel: a minister of finance of the sovereign state of Israel travels to Washington, not to hold negotiations about the scope of American aid to Israel, nor to inform American Jewry and public opinion about our foreign, security and economic policies, but to "take an exam" given by members of the American administration and then comes home pleased with his good marks!

I can't take this lightly. I see in it a great danger, and an indication of a process which has been going on for quite a long time now, one in which Israel is gradually losing its character as an independent state. It is a result of the real situation and cannot be blamed on any personal weakness in this or that minister, or in the state of Israel as a whole.

When one is faced by a critical foreign debt, most of which is owed to the U.S. or American financial institutions controlled by the U.S. government and one's annual inflation rate has hit the 400 per cent mark, the results are unavoidable. In 1984 Israel will be repaying

principal and interest on its foreign debt, amounting to approximately \$7b. In 1985 the sum will reach some \$8.5b., more than the added value of Israel's total exports. This is only one manifestation of a process which began during the Yom Kippur War and intensified after 1977 and the "economic upheaval."

IN THE LAST seven years, our external debt has grown by approximately \$13b. In nominal value it has more than doubled, in real value it has grown by some 60 per cent. This year again, according to the Ministry of Finance's most optimistic forecasts, it will grow by over \$1b., even if the current account deficit diminishes due to a fall in imports and a rise in exports.

Unfortunately, I do not expect any significant diminution in the balance of payments deficit because of continued galloping inflation and maturing savings programmes and government bonds, which will prevent real private consumption — i.e. the public's standard of living — from falling, even if no elections are held in the course of the current year.

Maturities of both savings programmes and government bonds are estimated to reach approximately \$400b. (\$3b.) in 1984.

This will be the dominant factor in the economic process in Israel this year, and even if the govern-

ment manages to reduce real expenditure by \$700m.-\$800m. — which I do not believe will happen — the reduction will be dwarfed by the inflationary flood resulting from the mature savings programme and bonds.

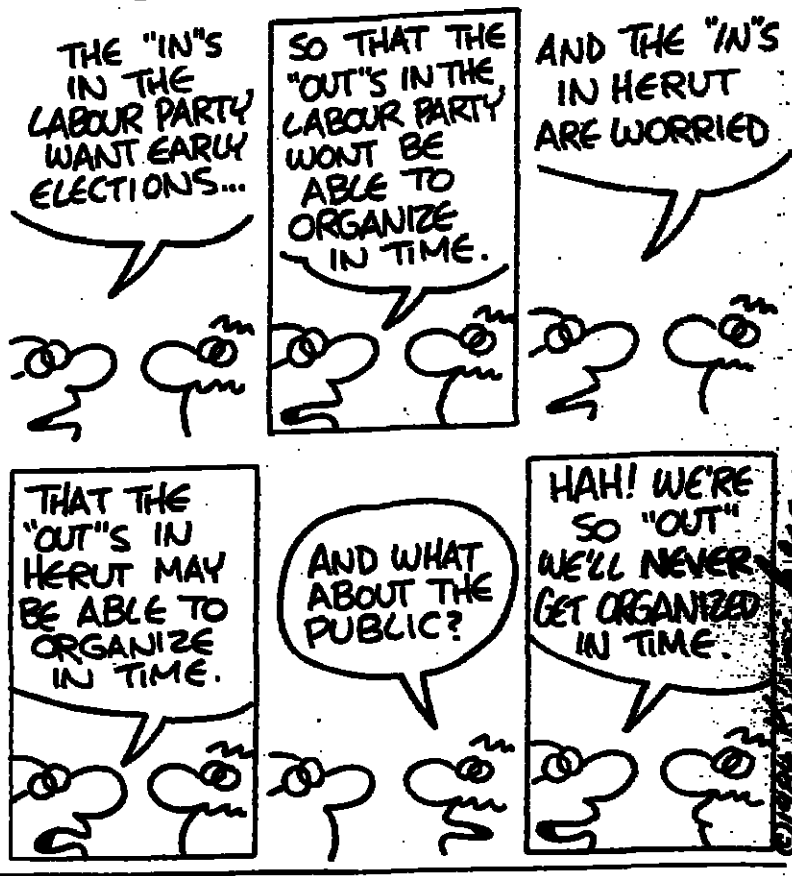
This will also affect the balance of payments, for it will prevent a fall in imports and absorb some potential exports. It could thus actually result in our foreign debt continuing to rise. In other words, our external economic dependence will continue and will intensify, leading to a further erosion in Israel's economic independence.

I SEE in this process a danger which goes beyond the economic danger. We are gradually growing accustomed to these periodic "exams" from the American government on our policy, a policy which ought to be determined exclusively by the government of Israel and the Knesset.

Once it becomes necessary periodically to satisfy the wishes of the American government, Israel's sovereign authority and absolute independence will be in serious jeopardy. The government of Israel and the Knesset will no longer be exclusively in charge of policy.

Israel will discover that it has a senior partner who must be consulted before decisions are taken, and to whom it must apply for approval after decisions are taken. All

Dry Bones



this symbolizes the beginning of a process of vassalization insofar as Israel's relations with the U.S. are concerned.

On this issue I have no complaints towards the U.S., which is acting in its own legitimate strategic and economic interests in the Middle East.

But I am very critical of ourselves. How did we, despite continual warning, reach a situation

which is on the brink of losing our economic independence both in the substantive meaning of the term and its technical-economic meaning? This loss of independence will inevitably lead to a loss of our ability to determine our own foreign and security policy.

This is where the real danger lies. The writer is a Labour Party MK and a commentator on economic affairs.

The nature of Halacha

By REUVEN HAMMER

pletely understood and agreed upon that these loop-holes should be closed.

Perhaps it should work the other way and new legislation should be passed liberalizing the current laws. There is, after all, a certain amount of hypocrisy in constantly invoking the sacred cow of "status quo" only to prevent legislation which would lessen religious control, while pressing as hard as possible for new religious legislation.

A delusion prevailing among Israel's religious leadership is that legislation is the universal cure. If there are non-Jews living as Jews, we can pass a law against it. If there are intermarriages or conversions we don't approve of, we can legislate against them.

The truth is that people are more powerful than laws and the main effect of such legislation is to encourage people to find extra-legal ways to do what they want. There is nothing so counter-productive as using the

authority of a secular state to enforce religious norms.

AS A JEWISH state, Israel naturally draws upon its traditional sources, of which Halacha forms a major part, but it does not automatically accept a Halachic ruling as Israeli law. Any status given to Halacha is granted by a secular authority.

The Orthodox Jew should find this reasonable. The acceptance of Halacha must be a voluntary act. What value is there in forcing it upon unwilling people? There are and always will be fanatics who insist that the violation of Halacha requires a violent response, but surely this needn't represent a majority opinion among observant Jews. They should realize that the sooner they respect others, the sooner they will be respected.

This means that the law of the state must be enforced. The lack of proper law enforcement has led from one crisis to another. The Ramot road stone throwers are the antecedents of the violent protesters in

Petah Tikva.

It is possible to understand the anguish of one who upholds the sanctity of the Sabbath when businesses are opened on Shabbat in Israel. It pains me too.

I feel that a certain minimum must be observed to preserve the Jewishness of Israel, but I also recognize that there are already precedents for this.

Whatever a person's view, violence and damage to people and property is not the way. Education and reaching out is. And, if there need be protest, let it be peaceful.

Religion has a long way to go to redeem itself in the eyes of the general public. Religious leaders have yet to realize that religious coercion and political pressure applied by the religious parties to channel public funds to their institutions of necessity create resentment.

There are times when observant people are ashamed to be considered part of the religious establishment. Religious leaders are constantly winning the battles but are too shortsighted to see that they are losing the war.

made an enactment forbidding it. Basic principles like "Because of the ways of peace," or "One does not make a ruling the community cannot abide" or "It is the Halacha, but we do not rule thus..." or "Better they should violate a law in error than deliberately" are seldom applied.

An enlightened rabbinic would go a long way toward lessening anti-Orthodox feeling and creating a situation in which the religious and non-religious could live together in harmony.

As a non-Orthodox Jew, I would go further. I would view Halacha as a constantly changing, constantly developing system which attempts to translate the principles of Jewish belief and morality into action. We see a tension within Halacha between the need for uniformity and the right of individual authorities to differ and to act differently. Of course there are limits, but they can be very broad.

I do not believe Halacha ever was or should be so fixed that changes that are needed cannot be made. I am not willing to accept a definition so narrow as to make it seem that Halacha is eternal, fixed and unchangeable.

I am convinced that nothing good can come from the attempt to equate Halacha with secular law. Halacha stems from religious belief, from the desire to fulfil God's will. As such it must be accompanied by free will and free choice.

History abounds with stories of people's attempts to impose a particular version of God's will upon others. No one has suffered from this more than the Jews. God forbid that we should be guilty of doing it to one another.

The true tragedy is that, in the fanatic attempt to force Jews to observe Halachic norms, we are turning people away from Judaism and missing the opportunity of creating a true Jewish state in the spirit of our tradition.

Dr. Hammer is assistant professor of Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and director of field activities for the Foundation for Mesorati Judaism in Israel.

THE DISGRACEFUL actions in connection with the body of the late Tereza Anghelovici, together with the decision to try to pass a new law giving the rabbinate new powers in many areas, including conversion and marriage, require us to consider once again the question of the nature of Halacha and its place in a modern, democratic society.

The issue is too complex to be dealt with completely in a short article, but it certainly cannot be clarified by absurd statements like "Halacha and the laws of the state cannot and must not be in conflict," which we have heard from various political and religious figures.

If that is so, what need is there for a Knesset? Is this body of (religious and non-religious) Jews and non-Jews merely rubber-stamping Halachic decisions? An Orthodox MK may say that he will not vote for any law which is against the Halacha and may indeed act accordingly, but it is the height of self-delusion for him to believe that there are no Israeli laws which violate somebody's Halachic norms.

Or consider the statement that the proposed new law which will empower the Israeli rabbinate to rule on the legitimacy of marriages contracted outside of Israel is only "closing the loop-holes" in the current legislation, as if it were com-

READERS' LETTERS

RETIREMENT COSTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In the excellent article by Lea Levavi, "Clubbing together" March 13, an error appeared which might prove misleading to some of your readers.

In reporting the cost of residency at the Neve Aviv Club, Kfar Shmaryahu, it was noted that "Those who pay a \$12,000 entrance fee pay a lower rate (\$680) a month after the first three years of residence." The fact is that a \$12,750 entrance fee is combined with a lower rate of \$680 effective immediately, not after three years. The "higher rate" is \$1,020 monthly, requiring no entrance payment.

AGIV MEUSHAH, Manager, Neve Aviv Club Kfar Shmaryahu.

GRATITUDE TO ITALIANS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I refer to your article "Rescue, Italian style" (March 9) and would appreciate if you could furnish me with details or eventually the address of the organization called "Gratitudine alla Popolazione Italiana."

We are not from Yugoslavia but belong to the many other Jews who saved their lives in Italy with the fantastic help of the Italian gentile population.

MIRIAM NEUSS Herzliya. Mail can be addressed to the organization at P.O.B. 4170, Jerusalem. — Ed. J.P.

ISRAEL'S HOTELS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Your edition of March 11 carried a letter from S. Lubin of Beersheba in which the author castigated the Israel Hotel Association and specifically concentrated on Eilat where supposedly he had spent an expensive and non-enjoyable holiday. The prices quoted for accommodation and its inadequacies, the comparisons made with the Canary Isles, would, if they were authentic, make many potential tourists to Israel decide against a holiday in this country.

I write this letter from a five-star hotel in Eilat, which is more than comparable to international hotels. It is spotlessly clean, has a full range of activities for guests from morning to the early hours of the next morning, bathroom towels are more than sufficient and are changed twice a day. The Israeli breakfast is so

ITALIAN TRAVEL AGENTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — With reference to your report of March 1 about the visit of Italian travel agents, we wish to point out that our company, V.I.P. Travel and Tours Ltd., was responsible for inviting them to visit Israel after the conclusion of their conference in Cairo. As pioneers in the development of tourism between Israel and Egypt, our motive in extending the invitation to the Italian agents was certainly not to steal the limelight from Egypt, but to encourage the development of combined holidays to Egypt and Israel from Italy. We believed this would

ISRAEL MINTZ

varied and plentiful that one is tempted to be gluttonous. The price for sundries both here and at four-star hotels in Eilat is less than that quoted by the author of the letter, and the prices of meals and alcohol at restaurants are much less than S. Lubin would have us believe.

The claim that the rabbinate controls what you eat and drink applies only to the kasrout of the hotels, but in the town itself as in all Israeli cities, one can eat the food of one's choice uninhibited by rabbinic control.

The uniqueness of a holiday in Israel more than compensates for the absence of race-courses and casinos. Hundreds of thousands of non-Jews can testify to the pleasurable experience of a holiday in this fair land.

JEFFREY GERI, WALTER ARBIB, Joint Managing Directors, V.I.P. Travel and Tours Ltd, Tel Aviv.

POSTSCRIPTS

PS. LIFE EXPECTANCY targets set by a UN conference 10 years ago are unattainable and should be lowered, according to a special UN planning committee.

The committee, which met recently in New York, was told that many nations are unable to attain the UN goal of an average life expectancy of 62 years by 1985.

Seventy-four was the previous target set for life expectancy by the year 2000. Revised targets would be 60 years for countries with high mortality rates and "at least 70," for others.

These and other recommendations are to be discussed at a UN conference in Mexico City this August.

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